

HONORING THE NASHVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS HISTORIC PERFORMANCE AT CARNEGIE HALL IN NEW YORK CITY

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Nashville Symphony on the occasion of its historic first performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In particular, I would like to recognize the outstanding efforts of Executive Director Alan D. Valentine and his staff, conductor Kenneth Schermerhorn, Associate Conductor Karen Lynne Deal, and the Board of Directors including Symphony Campaign 2000 Chairman Martha Ingram. Although every person involved played a role in this effort, these individuals in particular gave of their time and energy to ensure the symphony would have the opportunity to shine in the national spotlight.

On September 25th the Nashville Symphony culminated an East Coast tour by performing for the first time at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Well over a thousand Middle Tennesseans attended the sold-out show including Mayor Bill Purcell, my wife Mary, and me. The stunning performance garnered rave reviews from the New York Times and the Tennessean proving to the nation what Nashville has known for years about the symphony's excellence in artistry and skill.

Now in its 55th season, the Nashville Symphony has entertained and educated thousands of individuals at performances across the nation. At home, the symphony has earned the respect of our community through years of perseverance through its varied history. With the assistance and commitment of individuals like Martha Ingram, the Nashville Symphony has graciously survived, and today boasts a roster of eighty-seven contracted musicians. In fact the group just released the new compact discs, "Howard Hanson: Orchestral Works Volume I," and "Charles Ives: Symphony No. 2," on the Naxos label to coincide with their Carnegie Hall debut.

The symphony is the largest performing arts organization in Tennessee, and regularly partners with the community and area schools to educate the public about symphonic music and classical music. Studies have shown that exposing children to music at a young age increases their ability to learn and retain information. In fact, my two daughters, Elizabeth and Rachel began playing the violin at the age of five. Both have benefited tremendously from their exposure to symphonic and classical music.

In the same way, each young person should have the opportunity to enjoy and participate in the arts. The symphony plays a vital role in educating young people in our area by offering a number of educational opportunities such as Ensembles in the Schools; Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest; String and Band Bash; AmSouth Classroom Classics; and Young People's Concerts at War Memorial Auditorium. The symphony reaches 80,000 children in Middle Tennessee each year. This commitment to exposing future generations to the arts is to be commended.

The history of the symphony dates back to 1920 when a group of Nashville musicians

formed the "Symphony Society" with its own orchestra and roster. Unfortunately that group fell to the wayside during the Great Depression. However, the cause was taken up again after World War II, when Nashville native and war veteran Walter Sharp returned home from the war on a mission to form a symphony orchestra in his hometown. Sharp succeeded and gained the support of the community when he founded the Nashville Symphony Orchestra.

Today the Nashville Symphony performs more than 200 shows per year. Many of these performances are in conjunction with other area arts organizations such as Nashville Ballet, Nashville Opera, Nashville Institute for the Arts, and Tennessee Performing Arts Center. In addition the symphony has performed with Luciano Pavarotti, Charlotte Church, Amy Grant, Vince Gill, and many other internationally renowned artists.

With an exceptional donor base and strong community support, the Nashville Symphony stands on a strong foundation to entertain and enlighten new generations in the 21st Century and beyond.

**"A TRIBUTE TO ERNIE ARMSTEAD, TOP SENIOR VOLUNTEER"**

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, senior citizens across the country are setting an example for all of us of the value and virtue of volunteerism, but Ernie Armstead of San Bernardino is a standout even among these hard-working civic champions. The senior volunteers and those who work with them in San Bernardino County, who know the hard work of Ernie Armstead, were delighted this year when he was one of five recipients of the prestigious National Community Spirit Award from the American Association of Retired Persons.

Mr. Armstead, who is retired from the Air Force and the U.S. Postal Service, has for the past six years been organizing programs to educate the senior population about everything from Medicare to legislative issues to how to get help with tax preparation. He now serves as community relations coordinator for 36 area AARP chapters, and has been a member of the County Senior Citizens Affairs Commission since 1995. He is chairman of the commission's Senior Housing Subcommittee, and as liaison between the commission and AARP.

Among his accomplishments, Mr. Armstead created an innovative program in my hometown of Redlands known as Dinner and Dialogue, which brings together people in their 50s and 60s for a meal and discussion of issues that concern them. The popular dinners have brought in speakers from around the county to discuss senior programs and answer questions. It is one of many examples of opportunities Mr. Armstead seeks for seniors to create and expand networks across political, ethnic and age groups.

Mr. Speaker, all of the people of San Bernardino County benefit from the hard work by exemplary senior volunteers like Ernie Annstead. I ask you and my colleagues to join

me in congratulating him on being honored with the National Community Spirit Award, and wish him well in his continuing volunteer work in our county.

**A TRIBUTE TO SAINT JOSEPH PARISH ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sing praise for Saint Joseph's Parish in my hometown of Bay City, Michigan as they celebrate their 150th anniversary. The church has been the spiritual beacon of a fine neighborhood and, indeed, of the entire community.

Since the middle of the 19th Century, the church has stood as the centerpiece of the city's Northeast Side, drawing family and friends into the light of Christian love and charity.

The congregation's commitment to the community remains as strong today as it was when Father Kindekens first suggested in the late 1840s that Catholic settlers build a church in which he and visiting priests could minister to the needs of parishioners. By 1850, work began on the first Catholic church in the Saginaw Valley—Saint Joseph's.

In the beginning, just 20 families formed the foundation of the church. Six years later, the burgeoning parish counted about 2,000 members on its rolls and by 1868 that number had more than tripled. As the years went by, the church expanded to include additional buildings and educational facilities.

The church's mission remains unchanged today as leaders continue to offer strong spiritual and academic training to the neighborhood's families and many beyond its environs. In fact, the church holds a special place in my heart because it is the home parish of my wife, Vicki, who received her religious and early educational guidance under the tutelage of St. Joseph's clergy, nuns, teachers and parishioners.

Those who live in the shadow of St. Joseph's and those who have been touched by its influence cannot help but smell the sweetness of an angel's breath at their side and feel the hand of God on their shoulder.

**HONORING RUTH BEASLEY**

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I take this moment to celebrate the life of Ruth Beasley of Gypsum, Colorado. Ruth spent nearly a third of her life giving back to the community in which she was raised and her contributions are immeasurable. As family and friends mourn her passing, I would like to pay tribute to this fine woman.

Ruth was born and raised in Gypsum and spent her entire life in the Eagle Valley. Her fondest memories of her younger years include her first trip to Denver to compete in a

spelling contest as well as competing on her high school debate team. Her studies were always very important to her and this earned her the honor of valedictorian at her high school graduation.

It was not her achievements in her younger years that Ruth will be remembered for, rather it was her work for the communities of Gypsum and Eagle that will forever keep her name alive. For over three decades Ruth worked with the Eagle County Social Services helping citizens of her community overcome great challenges in their lives. She is also known for her dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary and her work with the Eagle County Historical Society Museum.

Ruth Beasley was very committed to her community. Her dedication and compassion for her fellow human beings will not soon be forgotten and will live on in the hearts of all that knew her. She was a loving person and she touched the hearts of all that she came in contact with. She will be greatly missed.

IN HONOR OF PEACE WEEK IN  
SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, as this session of Congress races to a close, we often lose sight of some of the wonderful things happening at home in our communities, and this is especially true when Washington, D.C. is consumed by political battles. That is why I rise today to commend the remarkable city of Santa Maria, California, which I am very proud to represent, for its fourth annual Peace Week.

Mr. Speaker, two years ago, I stood on the House floor to congratulate Santa Maria on being named one of 10 All-America Cities. This high honor was justly granted to a city that has distinguished itself by its diversity and the fact that all the residents of Santa Maria work together to find innovative ways to solve their problems.

One glowing example of this community cohesiveness is Peace Week, which will begin tomorrow, October 13. The goal of Peace Week is to stress nonviolence and conflict mediation. Each day brings a focus on a new topic and allows community members of all ages and cultures to discover ways they can make a difference in their own lives and in the lives of their neighbors.

Examples of daily Peace Week activities include a candlelight march, nonviolence education, and children's friendship games. Participants will enjoy a free community breakfast on "Community Peacemaker Day" and a keynote address given by Clayton Barbeau. There will also be stress relief through massage and Reiki therapists, a workshop on healing racism, and an Ecumenical Musical Reflective Peace Service.

Mr. Speaker, Peace Week is the product of an entire city and its enlightened leadership. I want to pay special tribute to my friend, Sister Janet Corcoran of Marian Medical Center Mission Services, for her remarkable dedication and tireless work on behalf of her community and the precious cause of peace. She is a role model for me and a role model for us all.

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**HON. BUD SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, twenty years ago, on October 14, 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed the Staggers Rail Act of 1980 into law. This landmark legislation transformed the nation's freight railroad industry from a state of physical deterioration and widespread bankruptcy to the modern system we have today that is the envy of the world.

In the 1970s, after years of federal regulation that did not allow the railroad industry to compete effectively with other modes of transportation, the railroads were in severe decline. Twenty percent of railroad mileage was being operated in bankruptcy. Capital investment was not being made. Infrastructure suffered from deferred maintenance, and accidents were on the rise.

The Staggers Act partially deregulated the railroads and freed them to operate in the free market system like other industries. It allowed the railroads to make their own business decisions, to establish their own routes, to set rates based on market demand and to invest in new technologies and infrastructure.

Our nation's economy has benefited enormously from the Staggers Act. Lower railroad rates mean consumers pay less for the goods they buy. Railroad customers have more money to invest in their own businesses. Fewer accidents mean a safer working environment for railroad employees.

Mr. Speaker, twenty years ago the enactment of the Staggers Act set the stage for the renewal of the railroad industry and today our nation's economy continues to benefit from this important law.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRANK  
DAVIS' PARTICIPATION TO THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OVER  
60 HEALTH CENTER, BERKELEY,  
CALIFORNIA

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mrs. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the participation of Berkeley activist and realtor Frank Davis in the establishment of the Over 60 Health Center in Berkeley, California.

Mr. Davis has been a resident of Berkeley for over 50 years and owned the property where the Over 60 Clinic now calls home. While Mr. Davis had many offers to sell his property at a larger profit, he rejected those offers to sell until he was moved by the idea and challenge of a combination senior housing and health care project. Mr. Davis sold his property to the Over 60 Building Project, which ultimately helped create this unique facility that combines a health clinic downstairs with affordable housing for seniors upstairs.

The Over 60 Building is a unique collaboration of three local non-profit organizations. Over 60, a division of LifeLong Medical Care, is the oldest community health center serving

seniors in the United States; the Center for Elders Independence is one of 13 nationally-acclaimed "Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly" (PACE); and Resources for Community Development is a developer of low-income housing in Alameda County. This partnership offers medical and community-based long term care services for low-income elders while allowing them to remain independent, socially active and live in the same community throughout their life span.

Mr. Davis is a native of Mississippi who came to California to "seek a better quality of life and to get away from discrimination." He is the current Chair of the Black Property Owners Association, President of the Tyler King Neighborhood Association, and remains active in helping to improve the quality of life for South Berkeley.

The Over 60 Building is truly an innovative model of care for seniors, quickly becoming a source of civic pride and a valuable resource for the citizens of Berkeley. I applaud the vision that Mr. Davis had to sell his property to this important project despite personal financial gains had he sold to for-profit developers.

HONORING SUSAN LOHR

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to congratulate Susan Lohr, on her recent award. Susan is one of two recipients of the Cranmer Award, sponsored by Colorado Open Lands. Susan is the co-founder of Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy, an organization that works to preserve family-owned ranchland in southern Colorado. Together with ranchers and community leaders the organization is attempting to preserve and protect over 20,000 acres of land.

Susan is no stranger when it comes to conserving farm and ranchland. She is currently president of a private land conservation consulting firm, Lohr Associates. She also recently retired as Director of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, where she worked for over a decade. Susan serves the Legacy in the capacity of Founding Director and Board Member Secretary/Treasurer.

Susan has worked very hard to ensure that family ranchlands are protected throughout southern Colorado. This dedication has helped a great number of people preserve thousands of acres of land and for that she deserves the recognition of this body. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of Colorado and the US Congress I congratulate Susan on this prestigious and well-deserved award.

Congratulations!

FLAWED ELECTIONS IN BELARUS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, October 15th, Belarus will hold parliamentary elections. Based on the run-up to the elections, the possibility of free and fair